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UNCLAS DUBLIN 001081

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SUBJECT: IRISH RESPONSE TO IRAQ: PRESENTATION OF A DRAFT
CONSTITUTION

REF: SECSTATE 158420

Paul Gunning, first secretary for Middle Eastern affairs, told POL/ECON chief that the GOI can offer its political support to Iraq as it prepares for the October 15 referendum on the constitution. He cited FM Ahern's positive comments to the press on the subject, and said that Ireland stands behind the EU statement as well. He noted that Ireland would be unlikely to offer experts to assist the Iraqis. He also said that because Ireland does not have a mission in Iraq, it funnels its assistance through the EU. Gunning is filling in for the Iraq desk officer, and promised to alert post if the GOI is prepared to respond more robustly.

KENNY